

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JED1230	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/05721	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24/12/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27/12/2002
Applicant MECON LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.
☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☒ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
- ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.
- 1 _____
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB 03/05721

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A method of determining the presence and location of leaks in a pipeline (2) comprising inserting a leak location device capable of detecting and recording the occurrence of noise into the flow of fluid (1) within the pipeline (2); allowing the leak location device to travel through the pipeline (2) with the fluid flow; causing the leak location device to detect and record noise in the fluid; and causing the leak location device to record the time at which noise is detected. Generally the leak location device is retrieved from the pipeline (2) downstream to its insertion point.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/05721

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G01M3/24 G01M3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2 884 624 A (DEAN HOWARD J. EN ET AL) 28 April 1959 (1959-04-28) non-unity document column 1 - column 3; figures 1,2	1,17,28
X	US 3 691 819 A (ROBERT J. GUEST) 19 September 1972 (1972-09-19)	28-30, 32,33
Y	column 2, line 34 - column 4, line 55; figures 1,2	12-16, 22,31
X	US 3 754 275 A (CARTER N,US ET AL) 21 August 1973 (1973-08-21) column 2, line 29 - column 4, line 63; figure 1	1-4,9, 11, 17-21, 23-26
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/04/2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/05721

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 508 433 A (WILLIAM M. BUSTIN) 28 April 1970 (1970-04-28) column 3, line 54 - column 6, line 2; figures 1,3,8 column 7, line 23 - line 38 -----	1-3,9, 11, 17-20, 23,27
X	US 3 409 897 A (BOSSELAAR HENDRIK ET AL) 5 November 1968 (1968-11-05)	1-6, 9-11, 17-20, 23,27
Y	column 2, line 13 - line 16; figures 1,3,4 column 3, line 5 - column 5, line 10 -----	12-16, 22,31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/05721

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 28-33

A leak location system comprising a leak detection device arranged to collect acoustical data and at least one monitoring means capable of transmitting signals and the leak detection device is capable of receiving the transmitted signals (claim 28).

2. claims: 1-27

A self contained leak location device having an oval shape suitable for travelling in a pipeline, wherein the center of buoyancy and the center of gravity are separated from one another along the long axis (claim 8).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/05721

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2884624	A	28-04-1959	NONE	
US 3691819	A	19-09-1972	CA 937318 A1	20-11-1973
			CA 958110 A2	19-11-1974
			DE 2200001 A1	20-07-1972
			JP 51047359 B	14-12-1976
			NL 7200039 A	06-07-1972
US 3754275	A	21-08-1973	CA 955216 A1	24-09-1974
			DE 2244463 A1	22-03-1973
			FR 2153933 A5	04-05-1973
			GB 1346149 A	06-02-1974
			NL 7212610 A	20-03-1973
US 3508433	A	28-04-1970	BE 691146 A	13-06-1967
			CH 467446 A	15-01-1969
			DE 1290773 B	
			FR 1500664 A	03-11-1967
			GB 1121824 A	31-07-1968
			NL 6617566 A , B	15-06-1967
US 3409897	A	05-11-1968	NONE	